

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly,

My name is Jose Díaz, I live in New Britain, and I am part of United Action CT. I stand in support of HB 6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.

I want to take a minute to share some of the stories of people I know and how they have been affected by not being able to obtain healthcare. A mother of three, originally from Mexico, fell outside her apartment and broke her ankle and tibia. She didn't know all that had happened to her, she just knew the pain was agonizing and all she could do was scream for help. She was taken to the hospital, but was told she couldn't get help because she didn't have healthcare. And that the only way they would see her was if she paid out of pocket or her life was in danger. She spent 2 weeks before she was able to see a doctor and get surgery.

A father of three who worked 3 jobs to help his family had a hernia and would be in pain most of the day. As time went by it got worse, to the point where the pain would make him cry. He tried several times to go to the doctor. But the story was the same. No healthcare, not enough money, no life threatening insurers, no way to see a doctor. Yet, the pain was excruciating. Once, they even told him that when the hernia exploded and he was about to die, then he could go. People should not have to live this way.

Another father of two was working day and night for his family. One day he was diagnosed with Cancer. The story was no different. He got little to no help. He passed away wishing he was able to see his daughters grow up.

These are the stories of the people and families that need it the most! We can't wait! Not having healthcare for everyone is inhumane! We need to pass this bill. I support HB 6616 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation.

Thank you for your time,

Jose Diaz
New Britain